

REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Claims 2-6, 11-20 and 22 are pending in the application. Allowable claims 2, 6, 11 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of base claim 1 and any intervening claims in the manner kindly suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action. Claim 12 has been further revised to improve claim language. Claims 1, 7-10 and 21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Generic claim 4 and non-elected claim 3 have been amended to depend on allowable claim 6. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 11, 12, and 22 should be allowed as indicated in the Final Office Action.

Elected claim 4 should be allowed as well, since claim 4 now depends on allowable claim 6.

Non-elected claim 3 and its dependent claims 13-20, all of which now depend on allowable claim 6, remain pending in the instant application for rejoinder and consideration upon allowance of claim 6. Applicants respectfully submit that the change in dependency of claims 3 and 13-20, which are directed to the non-elected species of Fig. 10, is proper and does not introduce new matter, because allowable claim 6 is a *linking* claim that is readable on not only the elected species of Fig. 4, but also on the non-elected species of Fig. 10. Note, for example, the overall resemblances between Figs. 4 and 10 which are different mostly in the configuration of the foamed material, i.e., block in Fig. 4 and chips in Fig. 10. Allowable claim 6 does not require the foamed material to include a block or multiple chips, and is therefore readable on both Figs. 4 and 10.

Rejoinder, consideration and allowance of claims 3 and 13-20 in view of the above and the indicated allowability of claim 6 are believed appropriate and therefore respectfully requested.

All objections/rejections manifested in the Final Office Action are believed overcome in

view of the above amendments.

Accordingly, all claims in the present application are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

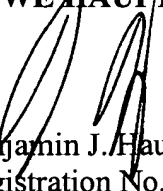
The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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